

IN THE CLAIMS:

Rewrite the pending claims as follows:

1. (Previously Amended) A method of providing information about a product, the product available for purchase from a plurality of sources, the method comprising:
 - receiving a selection of a product category from a predefined set of product categories using information about the product;
 - accessing a list of extraction parameters for the product category;
 - receiving a selection of at least one extraction parameter in the list of extraction parameters;
 - for each of the plurality of sources,
 - creating a corresponding program including identifying a corresponding web site, the corresponding web site selling the product and
 - providing a tool for creating the corresponding program to extract data from the web site using the at least one extraction parameter;
 - receiving a connection from a client, the connection including a value for the at least one extraction parameter; and
 - simultaneously providing, for each of the plurality of sources, product information for the product using the value for the at least one extraction parameter and the corresponding program, including:
 - when the product information includes product information for at least two sources of the plurality of sources, simultaneously providing the product information for the at least two sources of the plurality of sources.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing the tool for creating the corresponding program to extract data from the corresponding web site using the at least one extraction parameter further comprises providing a graphical user interface tool for developing the corresponding program, the graphical user interface tool including a web browser.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the graphical user interface tool further includes a first tool, the first tool for developing an extraction pattern, the extraction pattern identifying a plurality of portions of a document on the corresponding web site.

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
receiving a selection signal;
applying the extraction pattern to find a matching pattern in a document displayed in a source view in the web browser; and
displaying a rendered version of the matching pattern in a window.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the graphical user interface tool further includes a plurality of predefined extraction patterns.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the plurality of predefined extraction patterns includes at least one of an extraction pattern for matching a hyperlink, an extraction pattern for matching a form, and an extraction pattern for matching a price.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the graphical user interface tool further comprises:

identifying a form on the document on the corresponding web site;
creating a step in the corresponding program, the step to submit the form without retrieving the document;
generating a plurality of parameters associated with the step, the plurality of parameters corresponding to inputs in the form; and
identifying at least one of the plurality of parameters with the at least one extraction parameter.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing the tool for creating the corresponding program to extract data from the corresponding web site using the at least one extraction parameter further comprises defining a plurality of steps wherein at least one step in the plurality of steps interacts with the corresponding web site and operates on the results of the interaction.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the defining the plurality of steps comprises, for each of the plurality of steps, receiving a selection of an extraction command from a predetermined list of extraction commands.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined list of extraction commands includes extraction commands for retrieving multiple matches of an extraction pattern from a document.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined list of extraction commands includes extraction commands for extracting data from a first document and a second document, the first document including a reference to the second document.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein at least one step in the plurality of steps includes a test condition comprising a logical test for at least one corresponding argument and a first step in the plurality of steps, and wherein the program continues executing at the first step when the logical test is satisfied.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one corresponding argument includes an extraction pattern.

14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the test condition further comprises a result code, wherein the program returns an error when the result code is a web site changed result code.

15. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the test condition further comprises a result code, wherein the program returns an error when the result code is a no matching products result code.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined list of extraction commands includes extraction commands for segmenting a document into a plurality of units, each of the plurality of units matching an extraction pattern.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one step in the plurality of steps uses an extraction command to segment a document into a plurality of units, and wherein the step further includes a test condition, the test condition comprising a logical test and at least one argument, and wherein for each of the plurality of units, the logical test is

computed with the at least one argument, and the unit is removed from the plurality of units if the logical test is not satisfied with the at least one argument.

18. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for providing information about a product, the product available for purchase from a plurality of sources, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a selection of a product category from a predefined set of product categories using information about the product;

means for accessing a list of extraction parameters for the product category;

means for receiving a selection of at least one extraction parameter in the list of extraction parameters;

means for creating a corresponding program for each of the plurality of sources, the means for creating a corresponding program for each of the plurality of sources including:

means for identifying a corresponding web site, the corresponding web site selling the product, and

means for creating the corresponding program to extract data from the web site using the at least one extraction parameter;

means for receiving a connection from a client, the connection including a value for the at least one extraction parameter; and

means for simultaneously providing product information for the product from each of the plurality of sources using the value for the at least one extraction parameter and the corresponding program, wherein when the product information includes product information for at least two sources of the plurality of sources, the means for providing product information simultaneously provides the product information for the at least two sources of the plurality of sources.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the means for creating a corresponding program to extract data from the web site includes means for selecting an instruction from a predetermined list of instructions.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the means for creating a corresponding program to extract data from the web site includes means for developing an extractor pattern in a web browser.

21. (Previously Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

- a computer program for developing a description of data of interest;
- a set of instructions for developing an extractor pattern interactively in a web page;
- a set of instructions for receiving a selection of an instruction from a predefined set of instructions for inclusion of the instruction in the description of data of interest;
- a set of instructions for associating the extractor pattern with the instruction;
- a set of instructions for testing the instruction using the extractor pattern and the contents of a buffer; and
- a set of instructions for, when product information includes product information for at least two sources from a plurality of sources, simultaneously providing the product information for the at least two sources of the plurality of sources.